SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: The answer is not to my satisfaction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is trying to answer.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Unless I give the base line how it is being done...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are on right lines. Go on.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: After such a survey is taken, then we find out how much expenditure per person for that consumption is required for such calory intake, and taking the middle, we come to the conclusion, we come to this figure. If the honourable Member looks at the answer, for 1984-85 it is provisionally estimated at 36.9. That is the sample survey. The estimation made for 1983-84 on the basis of the sample survey was provisionally put at 36.9.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not on the basis of the amount. It is on the basis of the intake of calories that it is assessed and that is what the Minister is trying to explain. As a former member of the Planning Commission, I can tell you. Now, Mr. Mohanarangam.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: The per capita of the country is 1.4 per cent whereas the growth of the population is 2 per cent. Among the developing countries we see that per capita is more than the growth of population per annum. What are the concrete steps taken by the Government to see that the per capita goes up? According to the population theory every 25 years population is doubled. According to our Planning Commission theory the income is not doubled every 25 years. What are the concrete steps taken by the Government to erase completely the povery line?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not the line but poverty.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: The per capita is less than the growth in population...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is planning.

SHRI R. MOHANRANGAM: Let the Minister answer my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is nothing to answer. You have merely stated a proposition. If you put a question, than he can answer. You have merely stated a proposition. Now I call Mr. Patil.

SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Economic disparity is the basic cause of poverty and black money is the root cause of economic disparity leading to the high percentage of poor people particularly in the rural areas. For example, Sir, 78 co-operative sugar factories in Maharashtra earn every year a staggering sum of Rs. 3,120 crores as black money. This amount goes into the hands of the sugar lobby for controlling politics. I want to know from the honourable Minister and also from the Planning Minister whether the Government of India and the Planning Commission are planning to utilise this huge amount of black money...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is not relevant. Next Question.

Question No. 142. Mr. Patel.

Sidhumber reservoir project

*142. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gujarat Government has submitted a proposal to the Central Government for environmental clearance for the Sidhumber Reservoir Project in tribal areas of that State; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to clear the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project was appraised from the environmental angle, but not found suitable for clearance.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Sir, the Sudhumber project is in a backward area and it covers 99 per cent of the scheduled tribal area. So, if the project is cleared, it

can provide irrigation facilities to 23,439 hectares and the submerged forest area is only 421 hectares. So, looking to the irrigation facilities which will be provided in the backward area, may I request the Government to tell us whether they are going to reconsider their decision in this regard and clear this project?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: Sir, this is all the more reason why the Environmental Appraisal Committee has not thought it proper to approve of this project. This is a project in an area where the population of tribals is more than 90 per cent; it is 96 per cent. This tribal population mostly depends on the forests there. The reason which has been given by the Environmental Appraisal Committee, in its meeting on 8-4-83 on the basis of which the clearance was not given and which was communicated to the State Government, is that the area of submergence will be 437.24 hectares of very good forest. Sir, Gujarat does not have a good forest area. Bus this is an "A" Class forest area which is being submerged and Gujarat is not having the forest cover which it should have for maintaining the ecology of that area. The other point on account of which the Committee has not recommended clearance is that the provision for compensatory afforestation is very very negligible. They have only provided in the project Rs. 2.03 lakhs including the nursery for afforestation along the roadside and in some other areas. The other point is that about 1,700 people in five villages...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not think that Mr. Patel is interested in the reasons. He wants to know whether the Government is going to reconsider the decision. Are you reconsidering it?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: It is all the more reason why...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you reconsidering it?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: We are not going to reconsider.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No second supplementary arises out of this. Now, the next Question. Question No. 143 has been postponed. Question No. 144.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: I want to know the reasons also. He was giving some reasons.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has given you all the reasons.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PAEL: Sir, he has said that the area of submergence is only 437 hectares.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is an argument only. You write a letter to the Minister about this and the Minister will reply. Now, Question No. 144.

*143. [*Transferred to the 10th December, 1985.*]

*144. [*The questioners (Shri Krishna Kumar Birla and Shri Ram Chandra Bhardwaj were absent. For answer* vide *cols.....* infra.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question. Question No. 145.

Bungling in MES., Dehra Dun

*145. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:†

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in the Indian Express of 9th September, 1985 regarding large scale bungling in the MES, Dehradun in the matter of finalising tenders for various items;

(b) whether Government have made any enquiry in the matter; and

(c) if so, what is the result thereof and what action Government have taken against the persons found involved in the racket?

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†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Virendra Verma.